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Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Ms. Csilla Würtz (Hungary), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.36

Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3327 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974, 32/162 of 19 December 1977, 34/115 of 14 December 1979, 56/205 and 56/206 of 21 December 2001, 57/275 of 20 December 2002, 58/226 and 58/227 of 23 December 2003, 59/235 of 22 December 2004, 60/203 of 22 December 2005, 61/206 of 20 December 2006, 62/198 of 19 December 2007, 63/221 of 19 December 2008 and 64/207 of 21 December 2009,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolutions 2002/38 of 26 July 2002 and 2003/62 of 25 July 2003 and Council decisions 2004/300 of 23 July 2004, 2005/298 of 26 July 2005, 2006/247 of 27 July 2006, 2007/249 of 26 July 2007, 2008/239 of 23 July 2008, 2009/238 of 29 July 2009 and 2010/236 of 21 July 2010,

Recalling the goal contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[1] of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020 and the goal contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation")[2] to

[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

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halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who lack access to safe drinking water and sanitation,

Recalling also the Habitat Agenda,[3] the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,[4] the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[5]

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[6] which calls upon the States Members of the United Nations to achieve a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020, recognizing the urgent need for the provision of increased resources for affordable housing and housing-related infrastructure, prioritizing slum prevention and slum upgrading, and to encourage support for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and its Slum Upgrading Facility,

Recalling the 2010 High-level Plenary meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome,[7]

Expressing its concern over the continued increase in the number of the world's slum-dwellers, in spite of the attainment of the Millennium Development Goal target of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers,

Recognizing the negative impacts of environmental degradation, including climate change, desertification and loss of biodiversity, on human settlements,

Cognizant of the fact that dust and sandstorms in the past few years have inflicted substantial damages on the socio-economic situation of the inhabitants of the world's dry-land regions, especially in Africa and Asia, and welcoming the efforts and cooperation of Member States at the regional and international levels to control and reduce the negative effects on human settlements in vulnerable regions,

Welcoming with appreciation the important contribution of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), within its mandate, to more cost-effective transitions between emergency relief, recovery and reconstruction, and also the decision to admit UN-Habitat to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee,

Recognizing the significance of the urban dimension of poverty eradication and the need to integrate water and sanitation and other issues within a comprehensive framework for sustainable development,

Recognizing also the importance of decentralization policies for achieving sustainable human settlements development in line with the Habitat Agenda and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

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[3] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[4] Resolution S-25/2, annex.

[5] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[6] See resolution 60/1.

[7] See resolution 65/1.

Noting the efforts of UN-Habitat, as a non-resident organization, in helping programme countries to mainstream the Habitat Agenda into their respective development frameworks, and reiterating the relevance of the existing network of Habitat Programme Managers in the increased realization of projects and cooperation activities at the national level,

Noting also the efforts of UN-Habitat in strengthening and enhancing its collaboration with international and regional development banks and domestic financial institutions to combine public and private capital with capacity-building and policy reform activities in order to improve access by the poor to water and sanitation and affordable housing finance in support of the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing that the World Urban Forum is the foremost global arena for interaction among policymakers, local government leaders, non-government stakeholders and expert practitioners in the field of human settlements, expressing its appreciation to the Government of Brazil and the city of Rio de Janeiro for hosting the fifth session of the Forum from 22 to 26 March 2010 and to the Government of Bahrain for its offer to host the sixth session of the Forum in 2012, and welcoming the efforts to improve the planning, organization and effectiveness of future sessions of the World Urban Forum as set out in the lessons-learned review mandated by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its twenty-second session,

Reaffirming the increased importance of South-South and triangular cooperation in helping developing countries to develop capacities in order to achieve their national goals, including those related to sustainable human settlements and urban development,

Recalling its invitation to the Governing Council of UN-Habitat to keep developments in housing finance systems under review in view of the current global economic and financial crisis, and its decision to explore the possibility of convening a high-level event of the General Assembly on the subject, and acknowledging the efforts of the Governing Council at its twenty-second session in this regard,

Recalling also its encouragement to UN-Habitat to continue exploring the possibility of convening a high-level special event of the General Assembly on sustainable urbanization to promote understanding of the challenges of rapid urbanization, including climate change, housing finance systems, urban planning and sustainable land management,

Recalling further its request to the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the question of convening in 2016 a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III), in collaboration with the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session,

Reaffirming its encouragement to the Economic and Social Council to include sustainable urbanization, urban poverty reduction and slum upgrading as a cross-cutting issue in the follow-up to the outcome of relevant summits and major international conferences,

Recognizing the continued need for adequate and predictable financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation to ensure timely, effective and concrete global implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[8] and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda[9] and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat);[10]

2. *Noting* the progress made in response to the request of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat in its resolution 22/5 of 3 April 2009[11] for a joint examination of the governance of UN-Habitat with a view to identifying and implementing ways to improve the transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness of the functioning of the existing governance structure and to identify options for potential relevant changes for consideration by the Governing Council at its twenty-third session;

3. *Welcomes* the commitment by Heads of State and Government at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals to continue working towards cities without slums, beyond current targets, by reducing slum populations and improving the lives of slum-dwellers, with adequate support of the international community, by prioritizing national urban planning strategies with the participation of all stakeholders, by promoting equal access for people living in slums to public services, including health, education, energy, water and sanitation and adequate shelter, and by promoting sustainable urban and rural development, and encourages UN-Habitat to continue providing the necessary technical assistance;

4. *Takes note* of the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[7] in particular paragraph 77 (k), and in this regard invites the Governing Council of UN-Habitat to consider at its earliest convenience appropriate global and national strategies and frameworks for future work, for the achievement of a significant improvement in the lives of slum-dwellers beyond the current slum-related targets, in the light of the continued increase in the number of the world's slum-dwellers;

5. *Welcomes* the progress being made by UN-Habitat in the implementation of its medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008-2013, and encourages a timely and effective presentation of the conclusions of the midterm

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[8] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[9] E/2010/72.

[10] A/65/316.

[11] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 8* (A/64/8), annex I, sect. B.

review of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan to be submitted to the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its twenty-third session;

6. *Supports* the dissemination and implementation of the guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities and the guidelines on access to basic services for all, approved by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat in its resolutions 21/3[12] of 20 April 2007 and 22/8 of 3 April 2009,[11] respectively;

7. *Encourages* UN-Habitat, within its mandate, and in line with focus area three of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan, to continue its existing cooperation on issues related to cities and climate change and to continue to play a complementary role in matters related to climate change within the United Nations system, in particular in addressing the vulnerability of cities to climate change, including through further normative work and expansion of its technical assistance to towns and cities on local action for the mitigation of urban-based greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to climate change, with focus on vulnerable urban populations, slum-dwellers, the urban poor and at-risk populations;

8. *Recalls* the importance of timely action by UN-Habitat in response to natural and human-made disasters, in particular through its work in addressing post-disaster and post-conflict housing and infrastructure needs through its normative and operational work as part of the continuum from emergency relief to recovery to urban development through effective urban planning;

9. *Reiterates* its encouragement to the Economic and Social Council to include sustainable urbanization, urban poverty reduction and slum upgrading as a cross-cutting issue in the preparations for and follow-up to the outcome of relevant summits and major international conferences, including the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012;

10. *Invites* UN-Habitat to contribute to the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development by providing technical contributions and inputs, as appropriate, to the report of the Secretary-General on the objective and themes of the Conference, and to transmit outcomes emanating from their meetings relevant to the themes of the Conference;

11. *Recognizes* the progress being made by UN-Habitat to accelerate the provision of finance for the mobilization of seed capital through domestic and other financial resources for shelter and related infrastructure, with due priority to be given to the needs of low-income households, as requested in its resolutions 56/206 of 21 December 2001 and 61/206 of 20 December 2006, including through the development of the Experimental Reimbursable Seeding Operations Trust Fund of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, established by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat in its resolution 21/10 of 20 April 2007, and expresses its interest in the recommendations of the independent evaluation that will be presented to the Governing Council at its twenty-third session;

12. *Calls for* continued financial support to UN-Habitat through increased voluntary contributions, and invites Governments in a position to do so, and other stakeholders, to provide predictable multi-year funding and increased non-earmarked contributions to support the implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan of UN-Habitat;

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[12] Ibid., *Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 8* (A/62/8), annex I, sect. B.

13. *Invites* the international donor community and financial institutions to contribute generously to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, including the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund, the Slum Upgrading Facility and the technical cooperation trust funds, to enable UN-Habitat to assist developing countries in mobilizing public investment and private capital for slum upgrading, shelter and basic services;

14. *Emphasizes* the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of UN-Habitat, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to UN-Habitat and other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

15. *Encourages* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, and in discussion with all the partners of the Habitat Agenda, to consider, in his report to the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly on the question of convening in 2016 a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III), the possibility of integrating the two themes of "housing finance systems" and "sustainable urbanization", previously suggested as topics for separate high-level events of the General Assembly, either into the preparatory process for Habitat III or into a combined theme for a single high-level event;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of the sixty-sixth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)".